



Fig. 1. *Chagunius chagunio* (Hamilton-Buchanan), male

Length of head 5 cm, height of body 4.5 cm in total length. Body elongate, its depth is more than its head length. Mouth narrow and subterminal, barbels 2 pairs, longer than orbit. Suborbital region, cheeks and anterior superior margin of the orbit is covered with numerous pores. Dorsal spine osseous, strong and recurved, its length is rather more than that of head, excluding the mouth. Dorsal fin commences midway between the end of the snout and the base of caudal fin. Scales small; lateral line complete; lateral line scales 46; 6 scale rows between lateral line and pelvic fin; 15 rows before the dorsal fin. The specimen is identified as male, because of the pronounced tubercles on snout and

cheek, and elongated last two anal fin rays extending to base of caudal fin.

Colour: Silvery with a pinkish tinge; black at scale margin. Fins reddish with light outer rays.

The occurrence of *C. chagunio* in this lotic water extends its distributional range upto the foothills of Kumaon Himalaya. In earlier studies, the distribution of the species was recorded from Orissa, throughout Bengal, Bihar and NW Province to the Punjab (Day 1878-88), Brahmaputra and Ganga drainages along the Himalayan foothills (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

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24. NEW RECORD OF *PUNTIOUS MELANAMPYX* (CYPRINIFORMES: CYPRINIDAE) AND *MICROPHIS CUNCALUS* (SYNGNATHOFORMES: SYNGNATHIDAE) FROM KARNATAKA, INDIA

During a recent survey of fishes from the Western Ghats region of Northern Karnataka, a few specimens of *Puntius melanampyx* were

collected from a stream near Kadra (a tributary of Kali river, near dam site) and six specimens of *Microphis cuncalus* were also collected

downstream from Aghanasini river. Literature and reports on fishes of Karnataka (Day 1878-88, Talwar and Jhingran 1991, Jayaram in press) show that this species was not known from this region.

Puntius melanampyx

This species was collected in June 1996 from a stream near Kadra dam site, a tributary of the Kali river. *P. melanampyx* was originally described by Day (1865). It is a widely distributed species recorded from the Wynaad, Nilgiri and Travancore ranges of hills, and streams and the Cauvery river. Later, Hora and Law (1941) reported it from Pampadampara and Silas (1951) recorded it in Vannamudi Bridge, Anamalai Hills, Ponnai, Nelliamputhi Hills, Periyar drainage from Kerala. This species is being recorded for the first time from Uttar Karnataka Western Ghats region.

Description: D ii 8, P 14, C 20, LL 19-20, Pre.D.Sc 7. Head length 3.1 to 3.4 times in standard length. Eye diameter 2.6 times in head length. Body depth 2.5 times in standard length. **Colour:** In live fish, light golden brown with three dark black vertical bands on the flank. After preservation, dull brown, the vertical bands faded.

Microphis cuncalus

This species was collected in June 1996 downstream of Aghanasini river near Kritikada village. Its occurrence from this area extends the distribution range of the species to the Western

Ghats of Karnataka. In earlier studies the species was recorded in estuaries of northern Calcutta (Hamilton 1822), brackish water of Bombay (Klausewitz 1955), Dhaleswari river, northern Munshigany, Bangladesh (Rahman 1976).

Geographical distribution in India

This species inhabits rivers ascending far above the tidal influence, estuaries and the low salinity habitats of West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. For the first time, we recorded this species from the stream habitats of Karnataka. Water quality parameters, such as dissolved oxygen (12 mg/l), alkalinity (30 mg/l), total hardness (26 mg/l), total dissolved solids (63.7 mg/l) and conductivity (0.047 m mhos) were recorded. The water quality parameters show that it is a purely freshwater (stream) habitat.

Description: D 43-44, Rings (15+17) + (27-28), P 18-19, C 8-9. Head length 6.8 to 7.8 times in standard length. Body depth 3.4 to 4 times Head length. Eyes of moderate size situated at mid-length of head. **Colour:** Preserved specimens dusky green dorsal side, ventral side dull white and caudal fin dark brown.

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